

CLAIMS

1. A head for a suction cleaner, the head including:
a lower housing portion (12); and
5 an upper housing portion (14);
characterised in that
the upper housing portion (12) is movable relative to the lower housing
portion (12) between a closed position for use and an open position in which
airflow passages (56) within the head are opened from above.
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2. A head for a suction cleaner according to claim 1 characterised in that it
further includes a rotatably mounted tool element (26) which is exposed from
above when the upper housing portion (14) is in the open position.
- 15 3. A head for a suction cleaner according to claim 2 characterised in that
the lower housing portion (12) does not include any part which extends laterally
in front of the tool element (26), such that when the upper housing portion (14)
is in the open position the tool element (26) is also exposed from the front.
- 20 4. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 2 or 3 characterised in
that it does not include a sole plate.
5. A head for a suction cleaner according to any one of the preceding
claims characterised in that when the upper housing portion (14) is in the closed
25 position it defines, in combination with the lower housing portion (12), an
airflow opening (54) which in use is adjacent the ground.

6. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 5 as dependent upon claim 2 characterised in that the tool element (26) is located within the airflow opening.
- 5 7. A head for a suction cleaner according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that it further includes at least one catch (22) to retain the upper housing portion (14) in the closed position which is releasable without the use of any tool.
- 10 8. A head for a suction cleaner according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that when the upper housing portion is in the open position airflow paths within the head are accessible for cleaning or maintenance.
- 15 9. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 2, or any claim appendant thereto, characterised in that the tool element (26) driven by a drive mechanism and when the upper housing portion (14) is in the open position the drive mechanism is accessible for cleaning or maintenance.
- 20 10. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 9 characterised in that the tool element (26) is readily removable without the use of any tool.
11. A head for a suction cleaner according to either one of Claims 9 or 10 characterised in that it further includes a switch (44) for control of the drive
25 mechanism which is open when the upper housing portion is in the open position, such that the drive mechanism cannot be operated, and closed when the upper housing portion is in the closed position, such that the drive mechanism can be operated.

12. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 11 characterised in that the switch (44) is activated by a protrusion (46) on an inner surface of the upper housing portion (14) which contacts the switch when the upper housing portion
5 is moved to the closed position.

13. A head for a suction cleaner according to any one of Claims 9 to 12 characterised in that the drive mechanism includes an electric motor (30) within the head.

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14. A head for a suction cleaner according to any one of Claims 9 to 12 characterised in that the drive mechanism includes a turbine within the head and wherein said airflow paths include a path to and/or from and/or through the turbine.

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15. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 9 or any claim appendant thereto, wherein the drive mechanism for rotation of the tool element includes a drive belt (136; 166) having internal and external surfaces, and is characterised in that the drive belt does not pass around the tool element (26).

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16. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 15 characterised in that the drive mechanism further includes a drive pinion (138) provided on the tool element, and in that the drive belt is toothed on its external surface 136_b and engages with the drive pinion.

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17. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 15 characterised in that a circumferential drive surface (168) is provided on the tool element and the external surface of the belt (166) frictionally engages the drive surface.

18. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 17 characterised in that the drive surface is a pulley and the external surface of the belt has a cross-section which cooperates with the pulley.

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19. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 15 or 16 characterised in that the drive mechanism further includes a turbine (160) which drives a turbine pinion (135) engaging the belt.

10 20. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 15 or 16 characterised in that the drive mechanism further includes an electric motor (130) which drives a motor pinion (135) engaging the belt.

15 21. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 19 or 20 characterised in that the drive belt is toothed on its internal surface (136a), passes around, and engages with the turbine or motor pinion.

20 22. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 19 or 20 as appendant to Claim 16 characterised in that the turbine or motor pinion engages the toothed external surface (136b) of the drive belt.

23. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 17 or 18 characterised in that the drive mechanism further includes a motor or turbine having a drive wheel which frictionally engages the drive belt.

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24. A head for a suction cleaner according to any one of Claims 15 to 23 characterised in that the drive mechanism further includes a support wheel around which the drive belt also passes, and which holds the drive belt adjacent to and in engagement with the tool element.

25. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 24 characterised in that the support wheel is freely rotatable.
- 5 26. A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 24 or 25 characterised in that the support wheel is a pinion.
27. A head for a suction cleaner substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
- 10 28. A suction cleaner including a head according to any one of the preceding claims.
29. A cleaning apparatus adapted for use with a suction cleaner, the cleaning
15 apparatus including:
a connector adapted to be removably connected to a wand of the suction cleaner;
a lower housing portion secured to the connector and having ground engaging wheels;
20 an upper housing portion secured to the connector,
characterised in that
the lower housing portion provides support for a rotatably mounted brush bar, and
the upper housing portion is pivotable relative to the lower housing
25 portion between a closed position and an open position in which the brush bar is exposed from above.
30. Any novel feature or novel combination of features described herein and/or in the accompanying drawings.